

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06566 270318Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6566

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCLR, MOPS, MPOL, SOPN, KS, US
SUBJ: B-52 PARTICIPATION IN KOREAN ARMED FORCES DAY

REF: A) CINCPAC MSG P 222020Z JUL 78, B) CINCPAC MSG P 220231Z
JUL 78

1. THE 314TH AIR DIVISION, RESPONSIBLE FOR TACTICAL OPERATIONS
IN THE ROK, HAS APPROACHED CINCPAC TO INCLUDE B-52 PARTICIPATION
IN ROK ARMED FORCES DAY OBSERVANCE SEPTEMBER 30. DISPLAY WOULD
CONSIST OF A FLYOVER OF THREE AIRCRAFT PLUS A GROUND DISPLAY OF
ONE AIRCRAFT AT OSAN AFB. HQ SAC HAS NOT YET AGREED TO COMMIT
THE AIRCRAFT, AND CINCPAC HAS INSTRUCTED COMUS KOREA TO CONSULT
WITH EMBASSY FOR COMMENT. WE ARE WAITING FOR THEIR INQUIRY.

2. B-52'S HAVE CONDUCTED PREVIOUS FLYOVERS IN THE ROK, AND
PERIODICALLY CONDUCT SIMULATED (NOT LIVE) BOMBING EXERCISES,
BUT SO FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE NO B-52 HAS EVER LANDED HERE.

3. NORTH KOREAN PRESS LAST FALL TENDED TO REACT ALMOST
FRENETICALLY TO ALL MILITARY ACTIVITY, EXAGGERATING MINOR
EVENTS, INCLUDING B-52 TRAINING FLIGHTS, INTO SOURCES OF MAJOR
COMPLAINT. SINCE ABOUT THE FIRST OF THE YEAR, HOWEVER,
THEY HAVE CONFINED THEIR SERIOUS COMPLAINING TO MAJOR
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 06566 270318Z

EXERCISES (E.G. TEAM SPIRIT), WITH LITTLE OR NO COMMENT
ON CONTINUING B-52 RANGE DRILLS.

4. ASSUMING THAT THE AIRCRAFT ARE AVAILABLE AND CINCPAC
IS AMENABLE, WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY SERIOUS OBJECTIONS
TO THE PROPOSED THREE AIRCRAFT FLYOVER AND ONE AIRCRAFT
B-52 DISPLAY. IN GIVING THE MILITARY OUR FAVORABLE

JUDGMENT, WE WILL INCLUDE THE CAVEAT THAT IT SHOULD BE
MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO CONSIDERATION
BEING GIVEN TO THE POSSIBLE BASING OF B-52'S IN KOREA. THUS,
THE DISPLAY IS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED PRECEDENT FOR B-52
USE OF AIR FORCE FACILITIES IN KOREA

5. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY THOUGHTS DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ON THIS
MATTER.
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